

April 7, 2017

To President Michael McRobbie, the American Enterprise Institute Executive Council, and the Tocqueville Program:

The American Enterprise Institute and the Tocqueville Program at Indiana University Bloomington will co-sponsor a talk by Charles Murray entitled “The ‘Coming Apart Election’” on Tuesday, April 11th, 2017.

The advertisement notes that Murray is a “political scientist, author, and libertarian” who has published numerous books on the topics of welfare reform, class, education, and race in the United States. What it does not sufficiently note is that Murray’s 1994 co-authored book *The Bell Curve* made the case for racial differences in intelligence, infamously arguing that African-Americans had lower IQs than other demographic groups.

Murray’s findings on race, class, and status in the United States have been rejected by the scholarly communities most familiar with these topics and the system of peer-review in which they operate. Moreover, his ideas on race and varying mental capacity have since informed other racially-motivated, pseudo-scientific scholarship.

Judging by its title, Murray’s talk at IU does not appear to be directly about the themes found in *The Bell Curve*. Nevertheless, to our knowledge, Murray has never distanced himself from his prior claims. This disturbing fact casts a shadow over his work, and over his presence on a university campus that should be committed to principles of equality, inclusivity, and diversity.

We are strong believers in academic freedom and free speech. We do not advocate for blanket censorship of controversial views by state institutions, nor by private actors. For that reason, we respect the right of Charles Murray’s sponsors to extend to him an invitation to speak at Indiana University.

At the same time, public universities and the institutions within them also have a responsibility to act judiciously when providing venues for speakers, particularly in the present climate of racial tension. In this case, **we believe that providing a platform to Charles Murray is highly irresponsible and detrimental to the university community.**

We, the undersigned, are individuals and members of the intellectual community at Indiana University Bloomington who strongly object to the decision by the American Enterprise Institute, the Tocqueville Program, and the University to provide Charles Murray with the sheen of respectability through which he can espouse his racist ideas.

We call upon the involved parties to join us in openly denouncing Murray’s racist views, and to reconsider their decision to invite him to our campus.

Signed,

1. Rafael Khachaturian, Department of Political Science
2. Mike Kovanda, Department of Political Science
3. Matthew Fowler, Department of Political Science
4. Laura Bucci, Department of Political Science
5. Katie Stewart, Department of Political Science
6. D.J. Brock, Chair, Central Indiana Democratic Socialists of America
7. Sanjeev Rau, Indiana University
8. Miguel A. Cruz-Diaz, Department of History
9. Julian Epp, Indiana University
10. Shiloh Reems, Indiana University
11. Tommy DeNardo, Indiana University
12. Nathaniel Ferguson, Indiana University
13. Hannah Brink, Indiana University
14. Maya Ploss, Indiana University
15. Maria Alamo, Indiana University
16. Rishi Raman, Indiana University
17. Gabriel Lahman, Indiana University
18. Lindsay Munnely, Department of English
19. Joe Varga, Associate Professor, Department of Labor Studies
20. John M. Garvin, Maurer School of Law '17
21. Colleen Johnston, Department of Sociology
22. Katie Beardall, Department of Sociology
23. Annie Russian, Department of Sociology
24. Rowena Galavitz, Department of Religious Studies and Department of Comparative Literature
25. Stanley Njuguna, School of Public and Environmental Affairs
26. Ashley Swann-Santander Serrano, Department of Spanish & Portuguese
27. Gabrielle Thomas, Indiana University
28. Todd Campbell, Indiana University
29. Alice Corey, Jacobs School of Music
30. Nicholae Cline, Indiana University Libraries
31. Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, Associate Professor, Depts. of History and Gender Studies
32. Michelle Moyd, Associate Professor, Department of History
33. Dinah Holtzman, Lecturer, Department of American Studies
34. Alex Lichtenstein, Professor, Department of History
35. Laila Rajani, Indiana University
36. Sam Harrell, MSW IU School of Social Work Alum
37. Sarah Knott, Associate Professor, Department of History
38. Stephanie Huezo, Department of History
39. Navruz Nebakhtshoev, Department of Political Science
40. Sumit Ganguly, Professor, Department of Political Science
41. Eric Sevell, Department of Sociology

42. Abdulkader Sinno, Associate Professor, Departments of Political Science and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
43. Jeannine Bell, Professor, IU Maurer School of Law
44. Jennifer Brass, Assistant Professor, SPEA
45. Tracey Hutchings-Goetz, Department of English
46. Maryum Alam, Department of Political Science
47. Megan MacDonald, Media School
48. Peter Giordano, Department of Political Science
49. Leslie Noggle, Architect
50. Vera Marinova, Global Village Living-Learning Center
51. Cate Taylor, Assistant Professor, Departments of Sociology and Gender Studies
52. Cody St. Clair, Department of English
53. Lauren M. MacLean, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
54. Abby Ang, Department of English
55. Joe Bolinger, SPEA
56. Elijah Parker-Reyes, community member
57. Em Brewington, Indiana University
58. Maggie Spencer, community member
59. Leah Cover, Indiana University Libraries
60. Caroline Oates, Departments of Spanish and Portuguese and American Studies
61. Laura Gambrel, MPA, Indiana University '15
62. Rachel Seiler-Smith, Department of English
63. Kathryn Sweet Keating, MSW, BA, BSW, Indiana University, '15
64. Ashley Jenkins, Indiana University, '14
65. Mallory R. Cohn, Department of English, Indiana University
66. Amy Gonzales, Assistant Professor, Indiana University Media School
67. Andrea Whitacre, Department of English
68. Guadalupe Gonzalez Dieguez, Assistant prof., NELC & Borns Jewish Studies Program
69. A. Arwen Taylor, alum 2015, PhD Department of English Language and Literature
70. Catalina de Onis, Department of English Ph.D. '17
71. NaLette Brodnax, Department of Political Science and SPEA
72. Dylan Finley, Indiana University
73. Jeff Melton, psychologist and community member
74. Dalia Davoudi, Department of English
75. Christine Emme, community member
76. Francesca Hoffman, Maurer School of Law
77. Star Martinez, Maurer School of Law
78. Sunrita Sen, Maurer School of Law
79. Shadia Silliman, Gender Studies
80. Anna Marshall, Indiana University
81. Eric Rosenbaum, Department of English
82. Grace Schmitt, Department of English
83. Brandon M. Finlay, Dept of Sociology

84. Max Nagano, Department of English
85. Alison Calhoun, Department of French and Italian
86. Julie Kraft, Department of English
87. Abby Kulisz, Department of Religious Studies, Indiana University
88. Kevin Brown, Professor, Maurer School of Law
89. Luis Fuentes-Rohwer, Professor, Maurer School of Law
90. H. Timothy Lovelace, Professor, Maurer School of Law
91. Earl Singleton, Clinical Professor of Law, Maurer School of Law
92. Daniela Gutierrez, Gender Studies
93. Anna Cabe, Creative Writing Program, Department of English
94. Sarah Le, Department of English
95. Anushka Sen, Department of English
96. Jacob F. Lee, Department of History
97. William Palomo, Department of English, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies,
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98. Tessa Yang, Department of English
99. Giselle Cunanan, Department of American Studies
100. Emily Corwin, Department of English
101. Lisa Kwong, Adjunct Lecturer, Asian American Studies Program and Department of English;
IU MFA in Poetry, 2014
102. Stephen Hopkins, Department of English
103. Christie Debelius, Department of English
104. Darlene J Sadlier, Emerita, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
105. Jason McGraw, IU Dept. of History
106. James Naremore, Emeritus Chancellors' Professor, English, Comp. Lit., Media School
107. Angel Davis, Maurer School of Law
108. Star Martinez, Maurer School of Law
109. Kendra Werst, Department of Library Science
110. Jacob Bosley, MPA, School of Public and Environmental Affairs
111. Martin Law, Department of English
112. Christa Voirol, College of Arts and Sciences
113. Ari Hoffman, School of Public and Environmental Affairs
114. Lauren Alexander, College of Arts and Sciences
115. Alex Mann, BA, Indiana University '98
116. Vaughan Hennen, Indiana University '16
117. Clara Chen, Kelley School of Business
118. Shyam Raman, College of Arts and Sciences
119. Alexandria Hollett, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, School of Education
120. Pallavi Rao, The Media School
121. Jaclyn Bitsis, Department of English
122. Dina Okamoto, Professor, Department of Sociology
123. Jason Baird Jackson, Professor, Department of Anthropology and Folklore
124. Julie Le Hegarat, Department of Comparative Literature

125. Stephanie Kane, Professor, Department of International Studies
126. Tamara van der Does, Department of Sociology
127. Anne Groggel, Department of Sociology
128. Margaret Bott, College of Arts and Sciences
129. Katherine Blake, Department of English
130. Elizabeth Zack, Department of Sociology
131. Joanna Lara, Department of Sociology
132. Yari E. Cruz Ríos, Department of American Studies
133. Tabitha Wilbur, Department of Sociology
134. Wendy Puquirre, Department of Sociology
135. Alisha Kirchoff, Department of Sociology
136. Rudo Mudiwa, Department of Communication and Culture
137. Zeynep Yasar, Department of Communication and Culture
138. Katie Tater Lind, Department of Communication and Culture
139. Brian Forist, Lecturer, Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies
140. Emma Johnson, Indiana University '16
141. Nicholas Bussberg, Department of Statistics
142. Abigail Keith, Kelley School of Business
143. Bianca Manago, Department of Sociology
144. Andrea M. Sterling, African-American and African Diaspora Studies, and Black Graduate Student Association
145. Jasper Wirtshafter, School of Public and Environmental Affairs
146. Wesley Cammenga, MPA, School of Public and Environmental Affairs
147. Christopher Miles, Department of Communication and Culture, and School of Informatics and Computing
148. Adam Smith, Indiana University
149. Kate Goldstein, Indiana University
150. Marissa Moorman, Associate Professor, Department of History
151. Emma Frieh, Department of Sociology
152. Heather Akou, Associate Professor, School of Art and Design
153. Michael T. Martin, Professor, The Media School and Director of the Black Film Center/Archive
154. Parker Angelos, School of Global and International Studies, College of Arts + Sciences
155. Nolan Greenup, Department of Sociology
156. Amelia Hawbaker, Department of Sociology
157. Candis D. Smith, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies
158. Terry Tossman, College of Arts and Sciences, College Democrats at IU
159. Sara Zaheer, College of Arts and Sciences
160. George Hutchins, College of Arts and Sciences
161. Majed Akhter, Dept of Geography
162. Jessica George, Department of English
163. Andrés Guzmán, Department of Spanish and Portuguese
164. D. Adam Nicholson, Department of Sociology

165. Marvin D. Sterling, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
166. Iris Bull, School of Informatics and Computing
167. Arlene Diaz, Department of History
168. Alyce Miller, Professor Emerita, Department of English
169. Elyssa Klann, Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology
170. Pamela Jackson
171. Beatriz Gonzalez, College of Arts and Sciences
172. Raegan Davis, College of Arts and Sciences
173. Samantha Silberstein, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
174. Audrey Smith, Department of Human Biology
175. Jacqueline Mac, Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
176. Aisha Burton, Department of Biology
177. Bix Gabriel, Department of English
178. Julius Lee, School of Public Health
179. Fidelia Denise, African American and African Diaspora Studies
180. Kehinde Ligali, School of Public and Environmental Affairs and School of Global and International Studies
181. Teresa Jackson, Gender Studies
182. Ashley Townes, School of Public Health, Applied Health Science
183. Khadijah Edwards, African American and African Diaspora Studies
184. Ellen Wu, Department of History
185. Morgane Flahault, Department of Comparative Literature
186. Luke Kwiatkowski, Department of Mathematics
187. Nicholas Love, Department of Gender Studies
188. Javon Goard, PhD program, Informatics
189. Glenda Garcia, Maurer School of Law at Indiana University
190. Katrina Overby, The Media School, Doctoral Candidate and AI at IU, Advisor of the Black Student Union, graduate assistant of the BFC/A
191. Chris Meulbroek, College of Arts and Sciences
192. Michelle Lollie, Department of Physics, Physics Graduate Student, BGSA
193. Dorian T. Davis, Indiana University
194. Kristin Russell, College of Arts and Sciences and Media School
195. Shantel N. Franklin, Graduate Student
196. Erica Smith, Indiana University, Kelley MBA Program.
197. Maxwell Horvath, Media School
198. Monica Smith, Kelley School
199. Kristina Muxfeldt, Professor and Chair, Department of Musicology
200. Giovanni Zanovello, Associate Professor, Department of Musicology